

The Joy of Christmas

The Joy of Promises

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

*4 So Joseph also went up **from the town of Nazareth** in Galilee to Judea, **to Bethlehem** the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was **pledged to be married** to him and was **expecting a child**. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was **no guest room available** for them. **Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)***

- **Joy doesn't flow from the PROBABILITY OF CIRCUMSTANCES, but from the PROMISES OF GOD.**

*26 In the sixth month of **Elizabeth's pregnancy**, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are **highly favored! The Lord is with you.**" **Luke 1:26-28 (NIV)***

*29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **Luke 1:29-33 (NIV)***

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God**. 36 Even **Elizabeth your relative** is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 **For no word from God will ever fail.**"

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:34-38 (NIV)

- **Joy doesn't flow from the PROBABILITY OF CIRCUMSTANCES, but from the PROMISES OF GOD.**

For to us a **child is born**, to us a **son is given**, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on **David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)